

vote for a balanced budget amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote for it, to put in place the necessary discipline so that we can secure an economic future for our children, not one at their expense.

HIGH SCHOOL IS TOO EASY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, a headline in yesterday's Washington Post provided a sad commentary on the state of our educational system. The headline read: "Teens Tell Researchers High School Is Too Easy."

The article revealed the findings of a recent study by the nonprofit group Public Agenda, and it was entitled, and I quote, "Getting By." The survey of 1,300 high school students found that most students think their classes are not challenging enough, often lack exemplary teachers, and are filled with too many disruptive students.

We all know there are no easy answers to the ills that plague our Nation's schools, but here are some obvious first steps that we can take to address the feelings expressed by students in the survey: getting back to basics, setting rigorous standards for students and teachers, and returning discipline to the classroom.

These may sound like old-fashioned techniques but, according to this survey, a new generation of students would welcome these old ideas.

What we ought to be doing, instead of spending 9 hours in debating term limits today, is I call on the Republican leadership to please let us get to what the people want to talk about, and that is education, the affordability of it, the standards that exist in our classrooms. Let us put the Nation's business first before politics.

CONGRESS MUST WORK SERIOUSLY ON THE ISSUE OF CHILD ABUSE

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I welcome to the Chamber many people from the safety patrols from around our Nation's Capital.

I urge our colleagues to work seriously on the issue of child abuse. Not a day goes by we are not reading another detail of the sad, tragic ending of JonBenet's life, JonBenet Ramsey's life in Colorado, and daily we read in our newspapers about the violence that affects our children: sexual violence, physical violence, a lack of a decent home.

If there is a plague on America, it is our treatment of our children and our lack of response for our children. So I urge my colleagues today, as we build this bipartisan Congress, that we focus

on children. On education, yes, but also their safety; that they are not intruded on, that they are not the victims of a nasty crime of sexual abuse, and that we look out for the young people of our communities to make certain that they will grow to be productive leaders in the future.

TERM LIMITS DEPRIVE PEOPLE OF CHOICE BETWEEN CITIZEN LEGISLATORS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives will vote on term limit legislation. I have always believed in citizen legislators who work hard for the people, who accomplish things to make their communities a better place to live and then step aside after a few terms to let others into office to achieve new goals. It is what I have believed in and the kind of representative I am.

At the same time, I also believe in devoted public servants, citizens who dedicate their lives to learning the laws and doing good things for others. I believe Congress needs people like Senator Bob Dole and PATRICK MOYNIHAN, people who spend their lives working to improve our lives.

Term limits will deprive people of their choice between citizen legislators and public servants, and we do not need that. Term limits come from the voters at the election booth and from the legislators themselves, not from the Congress.

TERM LIMITS WILL ASSURE A SYSTEM BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF A CITIZEN LEGISLATURE

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I launched the struggle for term limits in the Washington State Senate more than a quarter century ago. It was clear then and it is even more clear today that long-term service concentrates power into the hands of a few power brokers and thus reduces effective representation by the citizen legislator as visualized by our founders.

Our system is based on the concept of a citizen legislature. People should serve a limited time in a legislative body and then return to live under the laws that they have passed.

My State has passed term limits and I will abide with our three-term limit whether it is upheld by the court or not.

REPEAL THE 1993 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX ON SENIORS

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens have worked their entire lives to protect the savings that can assure them a safe and secure retirement. Social Security is one of the two pillars of retirement security for our seniors.

We owe it to them to protect the benefits that they planned for and depend upon. That is why I have introduced legislation to repeal the tax increase on Social Security that was adopted in 1993.

Our seniors helped make America the greatest country in the world. The Federal Government should not jeopardize their quality of life by punishing them with high taxes on their Social Security benefits. Repealing this increase is a matter of fairness and will help senior citizens, especially those with moderate incomes keep more of their own money in their own pockets.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this critical legislation for our senior constituents.

CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS AMENDMENT

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 47 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 47

Providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The first reading of the joint resolution shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the joint resolution and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the joint resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except those specified in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order specified in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, may be considered notwithstanding the adoption of a previous amendment in the nature of a substitute, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report of the Committee on Rules equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. If more than one amendment is adopted, then only the one receiving the greater number of affirmative votes shall be considered as finally adopted. In the case of a tie